

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Service  
Washington 25, D. C.

## EGG PRICES PER POUND\*

Egg prices per pound in relation to egg prices per dozen are of interest both to producers and consumers. This is especially true during the late summer and fall months when the proportions of small and medium eggs are relatively high and prices for such eggs are low in relation to prices for large eggs.

The accompanying table, "Egg Prices Per Pound Converted to Prices Per Dozen," prepared by the Farm Credit Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, enables one to judge values of eggs of any one grade that are offered for sale at different prices per dozen for different sizes. It also permits making a fairly satisfactory comparison between prices of eggs per pound with prices of other protein foods which are quoted on a pound basis.

One reason for disseminating information on egg prices in relation to egg sizes is to acquaint consumers with the wide variations in the value of various sizes of eggs produced so that consumers can make intelligent choices in their purchases.

The following table shows the wide variation in the percentages of four sizes of eggs. This table is based on the sales of 3,150,000 dozens (105,000 cases) of eggs by one New England Cooperative during 1947-48.

Size of eggs	Range in egg weight per dozen	Monthly variation in percentage of that size	Average percentage for year
Pewee	Up to 17 oz.	.04 - 4.24	.96
Small	18 - 20 oz.	1.07 - 23.85	6.98
Medium	21 - 23 oz.	10.95 - 44.74	23.18
Large <u>1/</u>	24 oz. and over	34.78 - 87.93	68.88

1/ Including extra large and jumbo

As a result of the importance attached to a name, there is often a wide difference in the total price received for two cases of eggs sold by the dozen with only 1 pound difference in weight. This is especially true when that pound is added at the break between egg sizes. For instance, at this same New England cooperative, a 40-pound case of "medium" eggs brought from 90 cents to \$6.23 more than a 39-pound case of "small" eggs. The premium for "medium" eggs or the discount for "small" eggs was greatest when the volume of "small" eggs was highest. Likewise, a 45-pound case of "large" eggs brought from 60 cents to \$4.35 per case more than a 44-pound case of "medium" (over)

\* Statement prepared by Guy A. Peterson, Agricultural Economist, Farm Credit Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, June (1950.



eggs. The 60 cent difference came in the spring when the proportion of "medium" eggs was low and the \$4.35 difference came in the fall when the proportion of "medium" eggs was high. Although some premiums were paid by buyers of extra large eggs from this cooperative, they were relatively small and producers as a group received less than 15 cents a pound for the additional weight of a case of eggs in excess of 45 or 46 pounds. The importance of this is emphasized when one considers that over 60 percent of all the cases handled by the above cooperative in one year has a net weight in excess of 46 pounds. In the Middle West, relatively few premiums are paid for weight in excess of 45 pounds net per case or 24 ounces per dozen. At one large cooperative in Ohio the model weight of a case of large eggs in 1947-48 was 50 pounds net. The producers who delivered 50 pound cases of eggs received the same price per case as those who delivered 46-pound cases if they were of the same grade.



EGG PRICES PER POUND CONVERTED TO "PRICES" PER DOZEN<sup>1</sup>

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Prices per pound (cents)	"PRICES" PER DOZEN																					Prices per pound (cents)
	PEWEE			SMALL			MEDIUM			LARGE			EXTRA LARGE			JUMBO						
	15 oz.	16 oz.	17 oz.	18 oz.	19 oz.	20 oz.	21 oz.	22 oz.	23 oz.	24 oz.	25 oz.	26 oz.	27 oz.	28 oz.	29 oz.	30 oz.	31 oz.	32 oz.	33 oz.	34 oz.	35 oz.	
	(cents)																					
16-----	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	-----16
17-----	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	-----17
18-----	17	18	19	20	21	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	-----18
19-----	18	19	20	21	23	24	25	26	27	29	30	31	32	33	34	36	37	38	39	40	42	-----19
20-----	19	20	21	23	24	25	26	28	29	30	31	33	34	35	36	38	39	40	41	42	44	-----20
21-----	20	21	22	24	25	26	28	29	30	32	33	34	35	37	38	39	41	42	43	45	46	-----21
22-----	21	22	23	25	26	28	29	30	32	33	34	36	37	39	40	41	43	44	45	47	48	-----22
23-----	22	23	24	26	27	29	30	32	33	35	36	37	39	40	42	43	45	46	47	49	50	-----23
24-----	23	24	26	27	29	30	32	33	35	36	38	39	41	42	44	45	47	48	50	51	53	-----24
25-----	23	25	27	28	30	31	33	34	36	38	39	41	42	44	45	47	48	50	52	53	55	-----25
26-----	24	26	28	29	31	33	34	36	37	39	41	42	44	46	47	49	50	52	54	55	57	-----26
27-----	25	27	29	30	32	34	35	37	39	40	42	44	46	47	49	51	52	54	56	57	59	-----27
28-----	26	28	30	32	33	35	37	39	40	42	44	46	47	49	51	53	54	56	58	60	61	-----28
29-----	27	29	31	33	34	36	38	40	42	44	45	47	49	51	53	54	56	58	60	62	63	-----29
30-----	28	30	32	34	36	38	39	41	43	45	47	49	51	53	54	56	58	60	62	64	66	-----30
31-----	29	31	33	35	37	39	41	43	45	46	48	50	52	54	56	58	60	62	64	66	68	-----31
32-----	30	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48	50	52	54	56	58	60	62	64	66	68	70	-----32
33-----	31	33	35	37	39	41	43	45	47	50	52	54	56	58	60	62	64	66	68	70	72	-----33
34-----	32	34	36	38	40	42	45	47	49	51	53	55	57	59	62	64	66	68	70	72	74	-----34
35-----	33	35	37	39	42	44	46	48	50	52	55	57	59	61	63	66	68	70	72	74	77	-----35
36-----	34	36	38	41	43	45	47	50	52	54	56	59	61	63	65	68	70	72	74	77	79	-----36
37-----	35	37	39	42	44	46	49	51	53	56	58	60	62	65	67	69	72	74	76	79	81	-----37
38-----	36	38	40	43	45	48	50	52	55	57	59	62	64	67	69	71	74	76	78	81	83	-----38
39-----	37	39	41	44	46	49	51	54	56	59	61	63	66	68	71	73	76	78	80	83	85	-----39
40-----	38	40	43	45	48	50	53	55	58	60	63	65	68	70	73	75	78	80	83	85	88	-----40
41-----	38	41	44	46	49	51	54	56	59	62	64	67	69	72	74	77	79	82	85	87	90	-----41
42-----	39	42	45	47	50	53	55	58	60	63	66	68	71	74	76	79	81	84	87	89	92	-----42
43-----	40	43	46	48	51	54	56	59	62	65	67	70	73	75	78	81	83	86	89	91	94	-----43
44-----	41	44	47	50	52	55	58	61	63	66	69	72	74	77	80	83	85	88	91	94	96	-----44
45-----	42	45	48	51	53	56	59	62	65	68	70	73	76	79	82	84	87	90	93	96	98	-----45
46-----	43	46	49	52	55	58	60	63	66	69	72	75	78	81	83	86	89	92	95	98	1.01	-----46
47-----	44	47	50	53	56	59	62	65	68	71	73	76	79	82	85	88	91	94	97	1.00	1.03	-----47
48-----	45	48	51	54	57	60	63	66	69	72	75	78	81	84	87	90	93	96	99	1.02	1.05	-----48
49-----	46	49	52	55	58	61	64	67	70	74	77	80	83	86	89	92	95	98	1.01	1.04	1.07	-----49
50-----	47	50	53	56	59	62	66	69	72	75	78	81	84	88	91	94	97	1.00	1.03	1.06	1.09	-----50
51-----	48	51	54	57	61	64	67	70	73	77	80	83	86	89	92	96	99	1.02	1.05	1.08	1.12	-----51
52-----	49	52	55	59	62	65	68	72	75	78	81	84	88	91	94	98	1.01	1.04	1.07	1.11	1.14	-----52
53-----	50	53	56	60	63	66	70	73	76	80	83	86	89	93	96	99	1.03	1.06	1.09	1.13	1.16	-----53
54-----	51	54	57	61	64	68	71	74	78	81	84	88	91	95	98	1.01	1.05	1.08	1.11	1.15	1.18	-----54
55-----	52	55	58	62	65	69	72	76	79	83	86	89	93	96	1.00	1.03	1.07	1.10	1.13	1.17	1.20	-----55
56-----	53	56	60	63	66	70	74	77	81	84	88	91	95	98	1.02	1.05	1.09	1.12	1.16	1.19	1.23	-----56
57-----	53	57	61	64	68	71	75	78	82	86	89	93	96	1.00	1.03	1.07	1.10	1.14	1.18	1.21	1.25	-----57
58-----	54	58	62	65	69	73	76	80	83	87	91	94	98	1.02	1.05	1.09	1.12	1.16	1.20	1.23	1.27	-----58
59-----	55	59	63	66	70	74	77	81	85	89	92	96	1.00	1.03	1.07	1.11	1.14	1.18	1.22	1.25	1.29	-----59
60-----	56	60	64	68	71	75	79	83	86	90	94	98	1.01	1.05	1.09	1.13	1.16	1.20	1.24	1.28	1.31	-----60

<sup>1</sup>Prices per pound in first column were converted to prices per ounce and multiplied by the number of ounces per dozen and all fractions of one half cent or more were rounded to full cent to obtain "prices" per dozen.

The above table can help in determining which egg price is the best "buy" when eggs of different sizes are being sold for different prices per dozen. The first and last columns show prices per pound ranging from 16 cents to 60 cents. The rest of the columns show computed "prices" or "values" per dozen for the six different sizes of eggs in variations of one ounce per dozen in weight ranging from 15 ounces to 35 ounces. These "prices" were obtained by dividing the prices per pound by 16 to get the prices per ounce and multiplying these prices by the number of ounces per dozen shown under the headings for the six official U.S.D.A. sizes of eggs and rounding all fractions of one half cent or more to a full cent.

All the "prices" per dozen shown in the top line of the table are equal to one cent an ounce, or 16 cents a pound. All of those on the bottom line are equal to 3 3/4 cents an ounce, or 60 cents a pound. The higher the price of eggs per dozen the more important it is to watch the weight

of eggs because of the three ounce variation in weights between different sizes of eggs.

To use this table as a guide for comparing egg "values," find the quoted prices for any eggs offered for sale in the appropriate column for the "size." The price at which these eggs are selling per pound can be read off in either the right or left hand column. The table can be used to compare "values" only if sizes quoted are the same grade such as AA, A, B, or C.

The "prices" in the first column for each "size" of eggs are for the minimum weight of a dozen eggs of that size. The minimum weight of a dozen eggs is 18 ounces for small, 21 for medium, 24 for large, 27 for extra large, and 30 for Jumbo. There is no minimum weight for pewee eggs.



